

Ask an Expert: Navigating OFAC/BIS Licensing & Sanctions



T. James Min II, Esq. is currently the Co-Managing Partner and Chair of the International Trade and Investment Group at LimNexus, LLP, a U.S. law firm. Based in their Washington DC office, Mr. Min advises and represents Fortune 100 companies, large multinational corporations, start-ups, investors, and non-profit organizations on economic sanctions, export controls, CFIUS, customs, FCPA, and other cross-border legal issues. He has represented many NGO's in obtaining licenses from OFAC, defending NGO's before OFAC in enforcement investigations and building sanctions and export control compliance measures for NGOs.

Prior to LimNexus, Mr. Min was the global head of international trade law at Deutsche Post DHL which operates in every country in the world including sanctioned countries. Prior to DHL, Mr. Min was the senior attorney in the Legal Department of FedEx Express World Headquarters, and as an associate at a trade law firm in New York City. He began his trade law career in the U.S. Government including at the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Treasury, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Min currently serves as the pro bono legal counsel to the U.S. National Committee on North Korea (NCNK) and to Global Humanitarian Engagement (GHE). Mr. Min was formerly the Chairman of the Board of Global Resource Services (GRS) which carried out humanitarian activities in North Korea since 1997.

Mr. Min graduated with honors from The Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in International Relations specializing in the Soviet Union and East Asia. As an undergraduate, Mr. Min studied in Kyiv, Ukraine and Moscow, Russia. After Hopkins, Mr. Min studied at Seoul National University in Seoul, Korea, where he focused research on North Korean-Russian relations. Subsequently, Mr. Min received with high honors a Master of Arts in International Affairs and a Juris Doctor from The American University in Washington, DC.

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Ms. Al-Attar started a law firm because she is passionate about providing high quality legal services in a personalized manner. She is fundamentally committed to advising corporations, individuals, and non-profit organizations on how to navigate the challenges presented by the ever-evolving set of U.S. laws and regulations affecting international trade, including U.S. economic sanctions laws.



Ms. Al-Attar is particularly interested in the intersection between U.S. economic sanctions, anti-money laundering laws, and the art and antiquities market. She is also keenly interested in assisting humanitarian and other non-profit organizations grapple with the challenges presented by cross-border operations. Ms. Al-Attar strives to bring an intellectual rigour and thoughtfulness to her approach, but also appreciates that advice must be practical and implementable to be valuable. Her goal is to bring a personalized approach to each client or matter, regardless of its size.

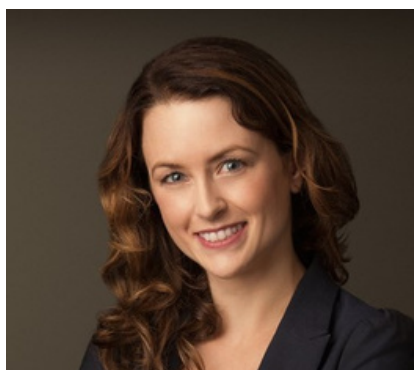
She is currently the Co-Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) International Law Section's Export Controls and Economic Sanctions Committee and of the DC Bar International Law Community's steering committee. She is also a member of the ABA International Law Section's Art and Cultural Heritage Committee Steering Group. Following her graduation from Georgetown University Law Center, Ms. Al-Attar joined the law firm of Milbank LLP in the fall of 2007 as an associate. While there, she worked on a range of corporate law and regulatory issues, including advising on U.S. economic sanctions laws.

She then joined the Enforcement Division at the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in the fall of 2010 as an enforcement officer. In this role, Ms. Al-Attar investigated potential violations of U.S. economic sanctions laws involving a number of U.S. sanctions programs. She recommended enforcement responses where appropriate and coordinated resolution of these matters with investigation subjects and their counsel. Many of these investigations involved complex financial and trade matters.

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Ms. Al-Attar remained in this position until January 2014. In June 2015, she joined the global law firm, Allen & Overy LLP, as an associate in its economic sanctions practice. Ms. Al-Attar had the opportunity to collaborate with the firm's attorneys in offices around the world on complex commercial and financial matters, refining her knowledge of many of the regulatory, investor, financial, and commercial considerations that can inform a transaction.

In May 2018, Ms. Al-Attar returned to OFAC as a section chief in the Licensing Division. In her new role, she was responsible for managing a team of licensing officers reviewing license applications and requests for interpretive guidance received under the Iran and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction sanctions programs. She began her position shortly after the United States announced its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the JCPOA) with respect to Iran. She left in May 2019 to open her own law firm.



Amelia Schmidt defends clients who come from different walks of life but live the same nightmare: finding themselves caught up in white-collar criminal and regulatory enforcement cases that involve complicated laws and life-altering consequences.

As part of this practice, Amelia uses her substantial regulatory experience – particularly in government contracts and export control cases – to defend clients in investigations that involve complicated factual and legal issues. Facing a government investigation, or a civil or criminal enforcement proceeding of any kind, is a serious and unsettling experience for anyone – especially when the investigation involves dense regulations that are difficult to navigate. Amelia's experience in both white-collar and regulatory matters gives her the ability to cut through the jargon and advocate for her clients caught in the government's crosshairs, including clients who work in highly sophisticated and heavily regulated industries.

Amelia also works on legal ethics and professional responsibility matters. She has advised lawyers and their clients on attorneys' ethical obligations, including attorney



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advertising restrictions and conflict of interest rules. In addition to her work in these areas, Amelia represents clients in complex civil litigation, and both accused students and sexual assault victims in campus disciplinary proceedings.

Amelia's passion for helping clients from all walks of life includes fighting for justice for her pro bono clients. She has maintained an active pro bono practice throughout her career. She has represented indigent criminal defendants, both at trial and in postconviction proceedings. She has represented immigrants seeking asylum in U.S. Immigration Court for fear of being harmed or even killed if forced to return to their native countries.

Amelia is also a co-chair of the [Solo and Small Practice Forum of the Women's Bar Association for the District of Columbia](#).

Before joining KaiserDillon, Amelia worked at other law firms in the District, where she represented clients in white collar, government contracts, and international trade-related matters, including government and internal investigations, litigation, and regulatory compliance counseling. She represented both individual and corporate clients in investigations for violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), the False Claims Act, U.S. export control laws and sanctions, and Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) regulations.

Amelia is a 2010 graduate of Harvard Law School and a 2007 graduate, summa cum laude, of the University of Notre Dame. After law school, she clerked for the Honorable Lawrence E. Kahn, Senior U.S. District Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York.

Amelia is licensed to practice law in the State of New York, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court.



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Chelsea Ellis is an associate in LimNexus' Washington, D.C. office. Ms. Ellis' practice focuses on international trade, trade enforcement matters, economic sanctions, export controls, CFIUS, internal corporate compliance, import regulations, customs, internal investigations, data privacy, financial technology, and other cross-border transactional and regulatory law. Prior to joining LimNexus, she worked in the United States Trade Representative's Office in Washington, D.C. as a contract attorney and as a Russia trade analyst. Before

USTR, Ms. Ellis was an associate at a law firm in Chicago, where she worked in the corporate and finance practice groups. She also previously worked as a summer associate in the Moscow, Russia office of an AmLaw 100 firm and at a FinTech consulting firm in Malta. Ms. Ellis received her J.D. from the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law and is a graduate of Youngstown State University, where she received her B.A. in International Relations and Political Science and minored in Russian studies. She also studied at the St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University in Russia and Imperial College in London, England.